GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4662
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2001
BAN DRUG IN CANCER TREATMENT
SUNDER LAL TIWARI

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints that some cancer hospitals are using several banned medicines for treatment of cancer;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the action taken by the Government to check sale of banned drugs in the future?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Regional Cancer Center, Thiruvanthapuram had undertaken the clinical trial with two experimental anti-cancer drugs in collaboration with John Hopkin`s University, USA.Following reports that drugs banned in USA have been used in the trial, an enquiry team consisting of representatives from Dte. General of Health Services, ICMR and Central Drug Control Organization was constituted to investigate the matter. As per the findings of this team, the Regional Cancer Center, Thiruvanthapuram has not used any banned drug. However, there have been some procedural lapses for which action has been taken and the Director, Regional Cancer Center, Thiruvanthapuram has been directed to suspend all ongoing clinical trials for a period of six months. They have also been directed to reconstitute the Institutional Ethics Committee, and co-opt a member from ICMR on it.